

# Welcome to the IR SIG Splinter Session!

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IR Science Interest Group

237<sup>th</sup> AAS Meeting

January 12, 2021

# New Website!

<https://cor.gsfc.nasa.gov/sigs/irsig.php>



# A Cosmic Origins

About Cosmic Origins

COPAG

Studies

Technology

## IR Science Interest Group

IR SIG Home

News

SIG Leadership Council

Events

Resources

## IR Science Interest Group (IR SIG)

The infrared region of the spectrum is critical for probing the cool, dense interstellar medium from which stars and planetary systems form. In recent years, the enhanced capabilities of Spitzer, Herschel

Congratulations, OSIRIS-Rex!



# New Mailing List!

Please join our new mailing list at

[https://cor.gsfc.nasa.gov/sigs/irsig/maillist/irsig\\_maillist.php](https://cor.gsfc.nasa.gov/sigs/irsig/maillist/irsig_maillist.php)

or by sending a blank email to [IRSIG-subscribe@lists.nasa.gov](mailto:IRSIG-subscribe@lists.nasa.gov)

NOTE: If you were already a member of our mailing list, your membership was automatically transferred. But, now, you can manage your own subscription (i.e., frequency of email, unsubscribe, etc.)



You can also follow us on twitter! [@ir\\_sig](https://twitter.com/ir_sig)



# Biannual Newsletter

Just released our  
winter 2021  
newsletter!

Available here:

[https://cor.gsfc.nasa.gov/sigs/irsig/documents/irsig\\_newsletter\\_s.php](https://cor.gsfc.nasa.gov/sigs/irsig/documents/irsig_newsletter_s.php)

## INFRARED SCIENCE INTEREST GROUP

No. 5 | Jan 2021

### Contents

1 From the SIG Leadership

### Science Highlights

2 Water on the Moon

5 Cold Quasar

### From the IR SIG Leadership Council

2020 has been a year of significant challenges for all of us. As we reflect on how our professional community has reacted, we are continually impressed by your resilience, dedication, and perseverance. The JWST Cycle 1 proposals are now in the review process, a variety of flight programs like SOFIA, SPHEREx, and the *Roman* Telescope are proceeding on schedule, and most ground-based telescopes are back operating (roughly) as normal. We hope you take pride in all your accomplishments over the past year and

# Splinter Session Schedule

## **IR SIG Splinter Session: Adapting to Uncertain Times**

Tuesday January 12, 2021 | 12:00-13:30 EST | AAS zoom webinar + gather.town.

12:00 – Welcome Remarks, Meredith MacGregor, Mike Zemcov (IRSIG Co-Chairs), Peter Kurczynski (NASA COR Chief Scientist)

12:15 – Invited Speakers. “Considering the current state of astronomical IR science and technology, how do you see the next decade or so unfolding? What are the investments we as a community can make now that will pay large dividends in the future?”

- Thoughts on Science, Alex Pope (UMass) & Ted Bergin (UMich)
- Thoughts on Technology, Jason Glenn (GSFC)
- Thoughts on Community, Rachel Akeson (IPAC)

12:50 – Open discussion forum on gather.town.

1:25 – Wrap up, next steps.

# Slack

Contribute to the discussion and ask questions through Slack:

[#splinter\\_nasa\\_copag\\_irsig](#)

Use threads to contribute to the conversation about each discussion topic

NOTE: The Q&A function is not available in the meeting Zoom. In order to ask questions during the invited talks, you must post them through Slack.

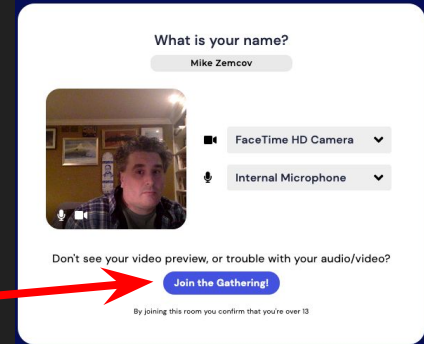


# gather.town

Following the talks, we will jump into interactive environment gather.town here:

<https://gather.town/app/TRhxRI2RPu5jwaPL/irsig237aas>

1. Navigate to the link.
2. Set your audio and video preferences (default should be fine) and join the gathering.
3. Controls are like an old nintendo game! Steer near to somebody using the arrow keys on your keyboard to talk with them.
4. Go to the room where you'd like to participate in the discussion.



# Discussion Questions

**Room A:** If you could design a 2027-launch MIDEX-class mission to answer the most pressing questions in our field, what would it look like, assuming no dramatic leaps forward in technology?

**Room B:** If you could magically have a factor of ten improvement in one of: sensitivity, spatial resolution, spectral resolution, wavelength coverage, or dynamic range over what is currently possible, what would you pick and why?

**Room C:** What are our next steps after JWST? Assuming Origins is not a slam-dunk at the decadal, should we focus on building smaller suborbital and explorer-class missions, or should we aim for a flagship mission?

**Room D:** Are there areas/ways where we, as an IR community, could expand/interface with communities that don't traditionally turn to IR for their science? Are there ways to expand our community and pool resources that aren't currently being exploited?

**Room E:** Which area of research has the most to gain from a space-based (far)-IR mission, and what is the most important scientific discovery that would result? What is the greatest discovery waiting to be made in IR astrophysics?



# Discussion Purpose

Our hope with these discussions is to gain some insight into the temperature of the community and to derive new charges to the SIG LC for the future.

Discussions will be scribed and we hope to at least release coherent notes from the session in the next few months, perhaps a more formal document.

One idea that keeps coming up - should we have a community workshop in the next couple years? Something to consider.